

The Whip Wake-Up

Thursday, September 12, 2002

House Meets Today At

GOP Leadership Predicts Last Vote

10:00 am

2 - 3 pm

Number of "One-Minutes" Today: None

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- # Today, a **Journal Vote is expected**. The **vote will be rolled** until after the vote on the motion to go to conference on the State Department Authorization bill (H.R. 1646).
- # **Motion to go to conference on the State Department Authorization bill (H.R. 1646)**: Next, the Republican Leadership has indicated that they will appoint conferees to the State Department Authorization bill (H.R. 1646). A motion to instruct conferees is debatable for one hour.
- # **Republican Education Tax Bill (H.R. 5193)**: - Next, the House will consider the Republican Leadership's Education Tax bill. The Rules Committee has recommended a **CLOSED rule**. The rule provides for **ONE hour of general debate**; waives all points of order against consideration of the bill; and provides a motion to recommit, with or without instructions. Under a closed rule, no amendments are permitted.

Bill Summaries and Key Issues

Republican Education Tax Bill (H.R. 5193): - H.R. 5193 contains tax deductions that are essentially vouchers for private elementary and secondary schools. The bill allows tax deductions of up to \$3,000 for elementary and secondary school costs for couples with less than \$40,000 of income (\$20,000 for singles). Because those earning less than \$40,000 do not have much taxable income, very few families will be able to take advantage of such a tax deduction. In addition, unlike every other Republican tax proposal, this one is temporary and would only be available from 2003 – 2005. A similar proposal to permanently extend Coverdell savings accounts was overwhelmingly rejected as a Suspension on the House floor last week. **Instead of providing adequate funding for the 90% of American students who attend public schools, the Republican Leadership is once again subsidizing private schools.**

- L **A KEY VOTE will occur on the Rangel Motion to Recommit which would provide urgent funding for school modernization**. The recommit is based on the bipartisan Rangel-Johnson (CT) bill that provides \$25 billion in interest-free bonds for school modernization. Instead of diverting scarce resources to private schools, the recommit will provide immediate relief for local communities to repair or replace existing public school facilities. The recommit also includes Davis-Bacon protections to ensure that those who build these schools are paid local prevailing wages.

Important Notice

The Republican Leadership has announced that **votes on Friday, September 13th have been cancelled**. The **House will next meet on Tuesday, September 17th** with votes after 6:30 pm.

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